California GARDEN

10c

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

JAPANESE TEA GARDEN
GOLDEN GATE PARK, S. F.
PHOTO BY ERIC WALTHER

April-May 1934

Familiar Friends in Distant Places
By Elliott Evans

Notes on Foliage and Flowers
By John A. Armstrong

Soil Suggestions
By R. O. Ketner

The Magazine . . .

"California Garden"

A Practical Local Guide published monthly for more than 20 years
Subscription $1.00 per year

The official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, in its 24th year of continuous activities.
All interested in garden matters and civic beautification are invited to join. Dues $1.50 per year. Magazine and Membership combined $2.00 per year.

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March Meeting

A rare treat was afforded the members of the San Diego Floral Association at the March meeting. The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. W. G. Waterman, head of the botany department of Northwestern University. Dr. Waterman possesses a fine collection of autochrome plates showing the spread of vegetation over the sand dunes of the Great Lakes region. Particularly surprising were the pictures of cacti growing there as we have assumed that the southwest was the native haunt of that plant. He took us through the woods around Crystal Lake and with the aid of the natural color slides pictured for us the wild flowers and trees from spring through summer and fall to the snow covered dunes and trees in winter. The hall was filled with members and guests, who included botany classes of State College and the High Schools. Owing to the illness of Mrs. Greer, R. R. McLean presided over this very delightful meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Miss Kate O. Sessions will be the speaker for the San Diego Floral Association at their meeting Tuesday evening at 7:30, May 15, in Balboa Park. Miss Sessions will give a descriptive talk on South African plants suitable for this climate. Fine slips of double poinsettas will be for disposal for the china benefit as a courtesy from Mr. Morley, park superintendent. A kind friend has also donated choice dahlia bulbs to be sold at most reasonable prices for the same benefit.

WHAT CAUSES OUR HOT DRY WINDS

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

Winds always blow from a region of high to a region of low atmospheric pressure. Because land cools and heats more rapidly than water, in summer the continents are warmer than the oceans, and in winter they are colder. Cold air, normally, is heavier than warm air, so in winter the prevailing winds are largely toward the ocean, and in summer toward the land. In southern California, on-shore, cool winds prevail most of the year, because the super-heated inland valleys warm up early in the spring, and hold their heat until fall.

Whenever the lowest barometer readings are near our coast, and the highest are charted over the Great Basin or Plateau region, a circulation of air takes place from the interior to the ocean. If the difference in pressure is large, strong easterly winds result. As they come from the upper reaches of the atmosphere, the winds are very dry and dessicating. They are warm because descending air heats at the rate of 1 degree for every 189 feet, and they sometimes drop many thousands of feet.

It so happens that the pressure distribution most favorable for these winds obtains from September to November, and it is during these months that our hottest days are most frequent. They occur, however, at any time of the year, and spells of warm, dry weather can be expected in all months.

In southern California, we know them as "Santa Anas" or "desert winds." The origin of the term is somewhat obscure. One explanation is that it is a corruption of the Indian word "Santanta", meaning "wind of Satan"; another is that it was named after the Mexican general Santa Ana, who bore quite a reputation for ruthlessness. The generally accepted explanation, though, is that they take their name from the region of their greatest frequency, which is along the Santa Ana River. Be that as it may, they are the most trying and the most unwelcome atmospheric visitation that we have in our fair Southland.

A NEW BOOK BY CHARLES FRANCIS SAUNDERS

A new book from the pen of Charles Francis Saunders arrived during the month, "Useful Wild Plants of the United States and Canada" (Robert M. McBride & Co.—$3.00).

A goodly portion of the material for this has been obtained from the domestic uses the Indians indigenous to southwestern United States made of the varied flora of this region. In no other region in continental United States were the native inhabitants more dependent on the native flora for their livelihood.

The contents is by no means limited to useful wild plants of southwestern United States, however, but fully justifies its title.

Mr. Saunders again achieves his extremely popular style in presenting a volume worthy of a place in every botanical reference library.

Spring at Braemar

By Ada Perry

Spring at Mrs. F. T. Scripps' garden at Braemar was enjoyed by the San Diego Floral Association and guests Sunday, April 8.

Dressed in white Mrs. Scripps received her visitors personally and escorted them to points that held the most interest; such as the Ann Hathaway cottage with its lilacs in bloom, the English walled garden where the wild primroses of the British Isles were to be found, or the fuchsia walk hung with blossoms colored like the rouges of some famous cosmetician. There were also the tulips and Virginia stocks blooming under the pink wisteria, flowering for the first time this year and a delicious color, and the Japanese garden with its delicate Japanese maple and the lath rotunda near by, a tree fern in its center and eight great uniformly sized, staghorn ferns hanging on surrounding arches.

Expressions of pleasure were showered upon Mrs. Scripps, many of them from eastern people who found the variety of plants amazing.

Of English birth, the lady of this garden has spent many years cultivating it to its present point. It is really a garden city located on the level land at the extreme end of the smooth blue waters of Mission Bay. Huge palms, robed with their cloaks of leaf fans surround the grounds. There are cypress trees, the only growing things planted there when she came, as tall as ship masts with dark, angular crowns of foliage. Below the heights of the palms and cypress the garden luxuriates around some half dozen cottages, hobbies of Mrs. Scripps and apart from her home located on the bay side of the property. There are also a number of lath houses and pergolas.

The plants range from the English primroses mentioned and ragged robins, another English wild flower, to begonias, avocados and figs. There are dozens of marvelous roses, bush and climbing. A number of brilliant-flowering eucalyptus are growing about. There is a bed of violets and forgetmenots under a palm leaf thatch and another of maidenhair fern shaded with a canopy of lantana. In a formal section hedges of lavender lantana surround beds of stocks and other sweet, colorful flowers.

A twelve-foot hedge of arbor vitae and hibiscus frames vistas from the house. The house itself is flanked by large palms and other subtropicals. One side of the building is faced by dark green ivy lightened by a border of white daisies, geraniums and oleanders.

Along the bay side an interesting planting of leptospermum, aloes, Flax, tecoma capensis and red and yellow lantana is found.

Mrs. Scripps also cultivates quantities of fine begonias.

Romneya Coulteri

By K. O. Sessions

. . . *Famous California Shrub Poppy*

THE famous California shrub poppy was first located in Ventura county and the name Matilja was the Indian name for it. It was botanically described by Prof. Harvey, botanical professor at Trinity College, England. The genus was named for Dr. Romney Robinson and the species for Prof. Coulter—both men being noted botanically.

The first specimen plants were received in March, 1877, and bloomed in July. It was established as a half hardy shrub in Dublin and their hopes were more than realized for it grew six to eight feet tall and the flowers were four and one-half to six inches in diameter. It was described as a very beautiful and distinctive plant and the queen of the poppy-worts. A swan white flower with its golden stamens formed in a large cluster. In 1886 the plant was reported to have seventy full blooms at one time and even in January blossoms were reported.

All the above facts were taken from "Garden Illustrated." It is one of the most treasured California plants of England.

As to its culture here. It flourishes best in loose soil. In Coronado it particularly enjoys that soil and in heavy adobe it will not live. Growing wild in California—in the Otay valley, Campo district, Corona and the Santa Ana River district—always in the loose and well drained soil. It becomes dormant in the late fall and then can be dug, saving as much root as possible—cutting back the top to six to twelve inches. The plant increases by underground shoots and spreads rapidly and the established but smaller plants or off-shoots from the main plant are best for transplating. All plants in cultivation should be cut back to at least one foot from the ground every November for best results for fresh foliage and flowers. It is difficult to grow from seed which under the most favorable conditions requires many months or a year to germinate.

This plant is worthy of more extensive cultivation throughout California. There are three types of flowers. In Ventura county and also at Otay in San Diego county the buds are very rounded and the sepals are covered with a little prickly growth. In the Corona, Santa Ana district, the buds are pointed and perfectly smooth. A seedling that developed under my observation in San Diego has smooth and pointed buds but larger and the foliage is much larger than that of the other two types. Large buds can be cut and will develop and hold for several days and at one time they were shipped to a wild flower show in San Francisco with excellent success. The petals of the Otay and Ventura type are very crinkly and crepy and the flowers are not as large as those of the Santa Ana and my seeding type, the petals of which are longer and smoother.

Garden Lecture

In the lecture room of the Los Angeles Public Library, on May 10, at 7:30 p. m., there will be a lecture by Miss Florence Yock. Miss Yock will speak on "Small Gardens" and will illustrate her points with slides. The lecture is sponsored by the Garden Club of the Los Angeles Public Library. All readers of California Garden who chance to be in Los Angeles at that time are cordially invited to attend.

Familiar Friends in Distant Places

By ELLIOTT EVANS

. . . *To Mexico City By Auto*

THE road to Mexico City, while yet not officially open, is passable in the dry season. But when the day comes, that passage can easily be made from the Rio Grande to the enchanted capitol of Mexico, what a new wonderland will be open for the flower lover! Alas, the federal inspection will then, as now, prevent one returning with any horticultural booty without a special permit. However, to have seen the jungle even in its fading glory is a never to be forgotten experience. Having always longed to see Mexico, for her gorgeous opulence of Colonial architecture, I have returned from that land far more impressed by the floral opulence of her jungle than by her architecture. Perhaps the photographer does less justice to Nature's handiwork than to man's and one is less prepared for the flower display awaiting the wayfarer, even in the dry season.

Camino Nacional No. 1, the Pan-American Highway, passes in its course of 760 odd miles of wonderful wanderings, through only one sizeable city, Monterey. The surrounding country is much like Texas, only four hours back, and except for its remarkable mountains and distinctly American industries, attracts little attention. The road goes on south through increasingly green and attractive agriculture land. Here and there a small town boasts a church, mostly of remembrance, so like our California Missions that one might be within hail of the Pacific Ocean. The night is spent in a little hut, clean and almost modern hotel, dropped into rich sugar cane fields. Four hundred miles into old Mexico and still no kind of bad roads and very little of jungle and tropics.

We go on. The country shows more green. In the distance is the wall of a mesa. There have been other walls and no difficulty, but we make straight for this one through a gradually thining fog. The wall shows an opening, a gateway—and to wonderland. The road follows the bottom of an ancient river channel, but once inside that rift is the mesa. All is changed abruptly, like stepping from a lighted room into a dark room. The whole landscape is changed, the flora with it; for our rolling cane covered plain we have precipitous walls and uniform trees. The road from a wide graded gravel has turned to a one-way elevated track of indifferently crushed rock. Seldom, indeed, is such a sharp change observed in Nature. We are now in an area that provides something recognizable from the home garden at every turn. Four hundred and fifty miles and at last we begin to realize what besides the poinsetta our gardens owe to Mexico.

Palms soon line the road, some draped with luxurious philadendrons and trumpet vines. Bamboo, palm thatched huts, rich in dark unclad babies, pigs and chickens typify the tropics. The feathered bamboo in gently waving banks arrests the eye. More palms, more bamboo, unending black soil-repetition, yes—but around the next turn there are three-foot maiden hair ferns and the first orchid plant. Who cares that the road is only an indifferently crushed rock one-track affair and the day steaming hot in late December? A cow, with maddening composure lazily shifts from her siesta in the road before a hut, thatched this time with a magenta creeper.

Even in the dry season there is so much to see, to wonder about. Huge clumps of organ cactus, just bursting into their full glory of waxy flowers, pal with the delicate foliage of a shrub that resembles a dark leaved acacia. The parasitic cactus hangs like a disorderly green rug from a large tree. Annuals, perennials and small shrubs stand in clearer spots, dried and withered. Tall growing iris hold their worm riddled seed pods aloft; no flowers survive, however. Damper spots in the hills hold more orchid plants, but never a flower has been left for us. We ferry across another river to arrive in the truly jungle town of Tamazuochale.

Papayas grow on the river banks. Oranges are four cents, American, a dozen, all juice and smell. The town has much charm. Its old church, though commonplace, is charming. The one-story adobe houses are quaint. The natives, who compose ninety-five percent of the population, are in gala dress and swarm into the square. Only three people in 25,000 speak English at all. Having spent two nights in the funny little hotel and having been awakened two mornings at six-thirty a. m., by the ringing of the church bells, whose tones resemble nothing so much as the shaking of rocks in a dish pan, only louder, we have come to have a very pleasant feeling for the place.

The next morning the little hotel is early astir with travellers, eager to go on. The morning stint is the sixty miles to Jacala, a climb of six thousand feet on a narrow road—twice five hours.

The jungle goes with us, damp and green for the first thousand feet up. Ferns and begonias abound. The heavily flowered bromanchia, hedging the outside bank, cuts off the immediate downward prospect. There is an increasing distance over the bank so we are glad for our beautiful hedge till we become accustomed to the impressive drop. Lantana, orange lantana, shows a charming bit of color on the warm banks. On every side, no matter how the road turns, are mountains, and between us and them are ever deepening abysses. Occasionally a faint ribbon of river can be seen at the bottom, more often not. The slopes, of course, seem to be perpendicular, and surprisingly enough are cultivated; garden patches of the patient peons, who must indeed be the human counterparts of the celebrated hillside chickens. We have practically passed out of the jungle area.

(Continued in Next Issue)

Encinitas Flower Show

By C. I. JERABEK

. . . *Interesting Observations of An Idle Bystander*

THERE are two things I cannot forget. One is the song called, "School Days," especially the part where it mentions the old hickory stick. The other was the day my friend and I played hooky from school when a circus came to town. How interested we became watching the men put up the big tent, all was activity, every man had his appointed task and was busy doing it.

Now, my school days are over and as last Tuesday (March 13th) was my day off I drove up to Encinitas to see the beginning of the flower show which was to commence the following day at 10 a. m. What did I see? Was it rows and rows of beautiful flowers? Oh, no! Here was another scene of activity. Trucks and various types of autos piled with plants, trees, shrubs; others with rocks, dirt, sand, etc. Although the big tent was up and the canvas was in place around the outdoor exhibits, there was still plenty of work to be done. Many of the landscape and rock gardens were in the making, rocks, cement, boards, bales of German peat moss, tools and everything else that makes up a flower show was scattered here and there.

Mr. Tanner was busy directing his men where to place the various trees, shrubs and other ornamentals in his attractive landscape design.

MacPherson and his partner were transplanting an orchard of tropical and subtropical fruit trees, occasionally stopping to explain some new variety which they had recently introduced.

Though the men were busy as bees they had time to stop and jest now and then. Presently a carpenter came along with a saw, someone said, "Halt! Present Arms!" (the man went through the various motions) "Forward, march!" and immediately the many tasks were resumed.

I have heard it said that if one has faith enough one could move mountains. Well, leave it to the Chamber of Commerce of La Mesa, Spring Valley and Lemon Grove Irrigation District, they had El Capitan dam, Mt. Helix, San Diego river, the town of La Mesa and the surrounding county moved to the flower show. Imagine! Three husky men down on their knees painting miniature houses, stores, barns; planting orchards, pastures and lawns; paving streets, etc. Well, such was the picture Tuesday morning.

Some ladies from the San Dieguito club were sitting or kneeling on the ground digging holes to insert fruit jars or gallon cans which later would hold pansies, nasturtiums, and pelargoniums. Presently a man came long and the ladies asked him to stretch a clothes line which he put up quickly and good naturedly. (I'll bet his wife never got one put up that easy.)

The San Dieguito Chamber of Commerce had another outstanding scene, a close reproduction of a front of an old Spanish home, showing a white adobe wall and a porch with moss covered shakes. Hanging from the rafters were strings of dried corn and pimentos, upon the floor and window-sills were potted geraniums and many other features reminding one of the Spanish occupancy.

Nearby the owners of a curio store, in Del Mar, were constructing antique furniture from weather-beaten boards and rotting posts. In front a bed of red gazanias were already planted but on account of their being under several acacia trees the blossoms would not open in full, so did not show off to good advantage.

The landscape scene was an imitation of an Hawaiian plantation, here several ladies were planting a miniature field of pineapples. (But to tell the truth I think they were Billbergia slips, never-the-less upon my returning later these had produced fruit. I would like to know what magic was used.)

The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce landscape scene, with its excellent floral effect produced many favorable comments from passers.

The McCabe display was completed and consisted of an attractive assortment of cacti and succulents.

Walter Anderson had been another early bird, his exhibit already finished. A unique feature was two revolving barrels, one of pansies and the other strawberries. While between them was a comfortable settee. What an ideal place to sit and eat these berries, all one had to do was to turn the barrel as one's appetite increased, after getting one's fill one could curl up on the seat and go to sleep, that is if one had not eaten too many.

Several boys from the Oceanside, Carlsbad Union H. S. were placing Cinerarias and ferns in their rock garden. Fatty was trundling a wheelbarrow bringing crushed rock for the others to spread on the paths. All were having a swell time, joking, laughing and working in anticipation of the hoped for glory later to come.

To the east of the school exhibit was a quaint miniature display very artistically arranged, but I failed to get the name of the exhibitor.

The Rock Point Nursery had a lath house and within a colorful display of ferns, begonias, azaleas, fuchias, eupatoriums and many other outstanding plants. Much enthusiasm was expressed by the majority who saw it.

Miss Sessions was sitting under an acacia pycantha directing her helpers in placing the many varieties of aloes, making labels, answering questions and receiving congratulations on her brilliant South African plants. How wonderful! To have such knowledge and so pleasing a personality.

Mr. Wiley was constructing a mountain cabin with a typical Colonial fireplace, the house was finished and the chimney nearing completion, but when the final stone was placed it proved too much. Suddenly! We heard a rumbling noise and looking towards the cabin beheld a catastrophe. Half of the massive chimney was tumbling one place and Wiley was frantically jumping off the roof nearby. It was enough to make anyone give up in despair, with the opening of the show less than a day away. Did he stand around and say, "What shall I do?" Oh, no. He started right in and said, "We will finish this or know the reason why." A few orders and the work of rebuilding started anew.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Fragrance!

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Note on Foliage and Flowers

By JOHN A. ARMSTRONG

. . . *Algerian Ivy a Superior Vine*

Since I became acquainted with the handsome foliage of the Algerian Ivy (Hedera maderemis) I have never been able to conscientiously recommend the old English Ivy when I knew the Algerian Ivy to be so much superior for an evergreen foliage vine. It grows twice as rapidly as the English Ivy, has leaves almost twice as large, and they are a brighter green and glossier. Because of these superior characteristics, it is one of the finest foliage vines that can be planted in California. The Algerian Ivy, as its name indicates, is a native of Northern Africa and Madeira, and since it comes from mild-wintered regions, it is not as hardy as English Ivy, but does splendidly here in California, because our climate is much like its native home. The variegated form of this vine is one of the finest bright colored foliage vines for shady places.

Leaves Like Plush

Another Ornamental Grape Vine, a*Vitis Coignetiae*q in its way, is just as handsome and just as useful as the Evergreen Grape. This particular variety loses its leaves in the winter —but only for a short time in California, and now it is filled with big thick green shoots which will develop into leaves almost a foot across, and with a rich green velvety surface like green plush, which completely covers any object over which the vine is growing in a very short time. But the beauty of this vine does not stop when the summer is over, for then these leaves take on brilliant hues of red, bronze and maroon, and even the mild warm fall weather of California is enough to cause it to take on these bright colors.

Coral Bells Are Ringing Out

Dainty and colorful small flowering plants for shady places are the Coral Bells (Heuchera sanguinea). This year in Southern California they started blooming early in March and will produce successive crops of bloom until late fall. Their tufts of heart-shaped leaves, compact and close to the ground, make a beautiful little border of foliage, and from each plant springs at one time a dozen or more slender stems, 12 to 18 inches high, laden with little bell-like coral-red flowers. The botanical books say that this plant is a native of New Mexico and Arizona, and since this is a shade loving plant that likes plenty of moisture, it would be interesting to see in just what location it is found growing wild in the dry hot states of the Southwest.

HISTORY OF THE CHEROKEE PINK

By K. O. Sessions

The Pink Cherokee is called the sister of the Cherokee. It was first introduced in 1896 at Erfurt, Germany which proved almost an impossible place for so tender a rose. Almost immediately it was forgotten.

About 1903 it was heard of in England, growing in a large private garden. Communications with the head gardener brought the report that it was not worth bothering with. Had only bloomed there once and was a worthless single flower. However the gardener was persuaded to graft a few plants on the Manetti stock and send them to Redlands, California.

They were on the road from Southampton one hundred and nine days and only four plants lived and in the course of a year they showed their vigor and beauty. They bear their flowers in clusters more than the white variety so the blooming season is longer. Also they often bloom to a limited extent in the fall. These facts were sent to me in 1908 by Mr. Sidney Hockridge of Redlands and my two first plants cost $1.50 each for small specimens. The history of the red Cherokee I have never heard but no doubt it is a sport of the pink.

The more one knows about plants, their origin, history, individualities, their beauty and usefulness the more satisfying the enjoyment derived from association with them.

CHULA VISTA FLOWER SHOW
By Mrs. C. W. Darling

Chula Vista has again put on a beautiful Community Flower Show in the Spanish Colonial building of the Woman's Club. The tables in the Auditorium, covered with black cloth, and the wall a light cream, made a fine setting for roses, sweet peas, iris and other bulbous and tuberous flowers. Here, also, were many special and educational features. Perhaps the one attracting the most attention was the table with the flowers in miniature containers. There were 38 entries of flowers in holders that averaged one-third of an inch to a half-inch in size.

Another table that aroused much comment and discussion, was filled with sweet-smelling flowers formerly associated in the manufacture of commercial perfumes before synthetic oils were used. A card, like an open-faced book, gave a history of these perfumes.

Three tables were divided into sections and had arrangements in color, flowers used with brocades and ornaments. These studies are always popular.

Another charming table was devoted to flowers of the decorative arts, with articles showing their application.

There was a planting plan with a pretty little bungalow, a green lawn, a pool, stepping-stones, flower beds, and a border showing the proper way it should be planted. Fish floated in the pool and little ducks were evidently looking for snails on the lawn.

The 40-foot patio had a canvas cover, and with the wide loggias gave ample space to show the large exhibit of annuals and perennials. There were some unusual things, the fringe tree, the Bouhinin tree, pennyroyal, and a very sweet-smelling geranium, said to be a parent of all the geraniums.

Among the lath-house plants was an Acuba Lapronica, a Holly Fern, an Elkhorn Fern and wonderful hanging baskets. In the collection of cacti was the night-blooming cereus, echinocactus grusonii, some epiphyllums, the cactus with the common name old man, and another called the hedge-hog. Still-life pictures, in old-fashioned frames of various sizes, were shown on the stage, and out in the patio were tea-wagons, tea-trays and tea-carts.

Encinitas Flower Show

(Continued from Page 4)

The same old spirit was shown, no matter what happens the show must go on.

In the big tent there was plenty of work too, men sawing boards and slats, making tables for cut flowers, one man was doing some artistic lettering for the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce exhibit. Upon the bandstand platform two ladies were sitting stripping cypress boughs. (These greens later to be used to cover the table tops.) I remarked that it reminded me of picking chickens but they assured me they preferred this task.

Upon the day of my visit the Knickerbocker Nursery exhibit was the only one inside. It had been completed the day before and consisted of rows of attractive cacti and succulents in gay red pots.

While walking aimlessly around I saw several eating their lunch which reminded me that I had not eaten anything since 5:30 that morning, so Mr. Decker and I bought our lunch and sat upon a saw-horse near Mrs. Bakker's exhibit. While sitting there it came to me that there was something radically wrong with her display. Who ever saw the front rows in any show being taken by old men, (Cephalocereus senilis) with long white hair?

In the afternoon upon returning from an enjoyable ride with Miss Sessions I took another hurried look around before leaving for home.

The Rinehart Begonia Garden was taking shape, mounds of soil, edged with volcanic rock from Death Valley formed a striking arrangement. Adjoining the Vista Garden Club had constructed a white lattice fence around their pleasing exhibit.

Eito was busy planting Hedera helix in Miss Josephine Yock's display, which consisted of a simple and unusual layout. Several artistic grown Raphiolepeis and Ternstroemia japonica shrubs and a beautiful lavender wisteria with a ground cover of English ivy.

Walking on the stepping stones through Mrs. Thomas' lath-house, I came in view of the spacious display of the Soledad Rock and Water Gardens. Mr. Walmsly already had worked several days on his exhibit bringing out the beautiful floral effects, but there was still plenty of work to be done. This afternoon Miss Session's niece was helping John Kirby put the finishing touches to it. I have notice that Miss Carroll is always ready to help anyone in need, even her competitors.

Coming back a few days later the show was opened, the displays were all completed, everything was spick and span, but that is another story.

Though all these professional displays are beautiful, what we need is more and more amateurs. Too often people will not display unless they expect to receive a prize of some kind but thanks to the Blessed Creator there are a few individuals who without thought of reward bring in their flowers year after year and so enrich the lives of other people by their generosity.

Personally, I derive as much pleasure from seeing this class of exhibits as those bedecked by ribbons.

Horticultural exhibitions are enthusiastically attended and exhibits are more carefully presented and more generally labelled.

Arboreta, botanical gardens, plant experimental stations are increasing in number and greatly in the public esteem.

Affection for plants in your own garden makes them living companions and to cater to their welfare is a pleasure.

Garden making is here and will endure and America will not suffer when compared with other and older lands.

Garden clubs are the most potent force in garden making.

One of the latter was a wheelbarrow all dolled up with a spanking bow of red ribbon and red geraniums.

There were over four hundred and fifty individual entries made, which indicates the community spirit in Chula Vista.

Soil Suggestions

By R. O. KETNER

. . . *Gardeners of America Uninformed on Soil Problems*

THE requirements of a good soil are fully as definite as are the proper ingredients in tasty food.

As a nation we are a practical people. But in general our Yankee practicality has not yet extended to soil problems. It is really not too much to say that in dealing with the soil we are hundreds of years behind the peasants of some European countries. Our scientists are not to blame. They have searched out the facts and published them freely. Our libraries contain many volumes dealing with the subject in minutest detail. National and state experiment stations are familiar with every phase of the situation and their findings are distributed free to the people. County farm bureaus and advisers are located at strategic points to solve our horticultural problems without charge. And yet a housewife who would not consider mixing a batch of flapjacks without following a well known recipe, or a hard-headed business man who knows that "for every evil under the sun there is a cure or there is none," flounders hopelessly in the dirt of a garden or lawn, without inquiring if there might be a solution of the problem.

After having my hands in the dirt for a good many years and helping to solve the soil problems of many who had grown weary in what appeared like a hopeless struggle I make the following statements without fear of contradiction by any one who is well informed.

1. Any soil, which does not contain something detrimental to plant life (such as excessive acid or alkali) may be transformed into a soft, moisture holding, productive loam.

2. If your soil is pure sand or is hard, harsh, sticky when wet, will not hold moisture except in a soggy condition, cracks when it drys, forms a cake over the top, is extremely heavy —if you are troubled with any of these your soil lacks organic matter and nothing else will correct the difficulty.

3. If you have a loose, moisture-holding loam, free from detrimental substances, and plants refuse to grow satisfactorily, in all probability your grounds lacks one or more plant food elements. In this case a properly balanced fertilizer will usually correct the difficulty.

4. No matter how much plant food there may be in the soil the results obtained will not be satisfactory unless organic matter is present in sufficient quantity and at a proper stage of decomposition.

5. Organic matter that is too new will usually soon decompose and be of service, but under certain conditions it is liable to heat while doing this and be detrimental. New organic matter which will heat around the roots of transplanted trees would be very likely to cause trouble.

6. Organic matter may be so far decomposed that it is detrimental. When decomposition has gone so far that the organic soil is plastic or sticky when wet, it has reached a detrimental stage. Such material usually becomes hard when dry and resists moisture. Much of the "black peat" offered for sale is in this condition. Does not necessarily indicate fertile soil.

7. If you are attempting to grow things in pure sand both vegetable organic matter and fertilizer should be used. In adobe soil vegetable organic matter alone will be quite likely to produce wonderful results. In either case much less fertilizer will be required if vegetable organic matter is plentifully supplied.

*Probably no place on earth is the addition of a proper organic matter to the soil more important than in southern California. Its cost should be saved in your water bill alone in a short time, to say nothing of increased production and saving of labor.

*Anything that has had life (vegetable or animal) is organic matter. Vegetable organic matter is more largely used to improve the physical condition of soil. Animal organic matter is usually used as a fertilizer.

Forms of Organic Matter

STABLE MANURE

Formerly it was the best known form of organic matter for soil use. It contains more or less fertility, depending on its origin. It is valuable as a vegetable organic matter. If used fresh it should be spread over a sod, allowed to leach and what remains should be plowed under to decompose. This can only be successfully done on farms.

COVER CROP

This form of organic matter is very valuable under field conditions. It is grown where it is needed. Its growth and plowing it under helps to till the soil. If the proper species of plant is used it adds materially to soil fertility and maintains a proper physical soil condition.

LEAF MOLD

As usually found this is a very short lived form of soil organic matter consisting of partly disintegrated leaves mixed with a large amount of woody material, trash and sand. It is acid in reaction depending on the nature of the leaves from which it is formed. Ordinarily the plant food content is negligible and the organic content is very low because of the presence of a large amount of foreign matter. Not highly retentive of moisture.

BLACK PEAT

This is a name applied largely on the Western Coast to an organic humus formed from reeds, sedges, marsh grasses, etc. Much of it is impregnated with alkali and many valuable plants have been destroyed by its use. It is not uniform in quality. Much of it has reached a stage which renders it detrimental from a physical standpoint. It appeals to many because it is black, which has nothing to do with its usefulness.

GERMAN PEAT MOSS

It is the highest known grade of organic matter for soil use—between 90 and 100% pure organic matter. It contains considerable fertility but this cannot be used by plants until the peat moss decomposes, so fertilizer should be used with it if plant food is needed. It will absorb and retain more moisture than any other known form of organic matter, thereby greatly reducing your water bill. It will continue to perform its function in the soil for many years. It contains no substance and no bacteria detrimental to plant life. It is free from fibrous and woody material and sand. The United States Government recognizes German peat moss as the highest known grade of soil organic matter.

Peat Import Corp.

520 Taylor Street San Francisco

Native and Exotic Plant Life

By C. I. JERABEK

. . . *A Visit to U. S. Acclimatization Garden*

A visit to the Government Acclimatization Garden, near Torrey Pines, revealed some interesting surprises during the past two years since our last visit. Interim Mr. C. C. Marshall, the Superintendent in charge, has produced some remarkable results in his experiments that may later prove profitable to our country.

A unique feature of this place is that much of the native chaparral was left and the exotic plant life has been planted in small cleared areas, sometimes on a level strip, terraced plot or perhaps in the bottom of a barranca.

Let your imagination roam and you will picture the first thing that greeted our eyes as we drove into this place. In all directions the mesa is dotted with the coast lilac, Ceanothus Verrucosus, covered with white flowers resembling banks of snow. And intermixed are shrubs of chamise, black sage, bush-sunflower, spice-bush and false-mallow.

In our wanderings through the grounds we came upon several groups of Sequoia gigantea, California Big Tree, these apparently thriving in this location.

Rambling about the place we located patches of subtropical fruits as litchi and Queenland nuts, bananas, papayas, also several kinds of avocado and citrus fruits.

Here one can see many varieties of coffee, palms, cotton, cacti and succulents, rubber producing plants of all descriptions, including Ficus, Carrisas, Euphorbias and Cryptostegias.

To give just a brief description of the many plants would take too much time and space, but there were several that seemed worthy of mention; for example, a specimen of the Silk-cotton tree, Ceiba Casearia; it is deciduous at the present but will soon be covered with its digitate leaves and fleshy flower. For some reason, this tree has never produced any seed pods, but in its native habitat, this cotton-like substance in the pods is used to stuff pillows, mattresses and sometimes life-buoys. It is the "kapok" of commerce.

In a screen-house is a small tree of Dizygotheca elegantissima, bearing both the matured and juvenile foliage. The adult leaves are broad and leathery but the younger growth is very slender. Seeing these separated from the plant one might think they are different varieties.

The cactus section is surely interesting, but it was a clump of several Agave attenuata and three Doryanthus Palmeri that attracted the most attention. It is the latter genus that represents the group in Australia as the Agave and Furcraea do here in America. One of these specimens is coming into bloom; a stalk ten feet in height came out of a dense basal rosette of sword-shaped leaves, slightly ribbed. These are about three feet in length with a soft brown tip. The flowers are in a thyrsoid panicle, bright scarlet outside and whitish within.

These and many others emphasize the varied plant life encountered. Better take your auto and drive out some day. You will find it worth while. A visitor may ramble at will. Most of the specimens are labeled, but if anyone is found without the name, it can be identified by applying at the Superintendent's office.

SNAILS

By C. Walter Clement

The European Brown Snail has been known as an enemy of plant life since 1774 when it was first noticed in Italy. It is now widely distributed over the temperate zone, being transported from one section to another either for food or on plant life.

This snail was first introduced around the San Francisco Bay and Los Angeles about 1860 by one Delmas as an article of food, and by 1900 was rather widely distributed over the state. Since then its spread has been rapid, and it is found in most of the cultivated districts of California from San Diego County to Sonoma County.

This snail does considerable damage to gardens and citrus trees, being very fond of lettuce, cabbage, begonia, dahlia, canna, and citrus, to mention some of the plants they like.

These snails are hermaphroditic, each pair possessing both male and female organs. Both individuals lay eggs, and during the season from April to November will lay about 400 eggs apiece. Low temperatures and dry weather cut down their activity, but as our temperatures along the coast are moderate they are active most of the year. Control methods were not much used until the infestation of the white snail in La Jolla in 1922, when this cousin of the California brown snail became a grave menace.

Extensive experiments were carried on at the time, and poisoned bran was found to be the most effective method of control. The gardener can mix his own poison, but it is hardly worth while, considering the efficient baits now made by the leading manufacturers.

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All of the plants mentioned on this page are fully described and offered in our Spring Planting Bulletin, which will be sent to you upon request. Regular truck deliveries each week to San Diego and vicinity.

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For Late Spring Planting

April and May are ideal months in which to plant evergreen flowering shrubs. We have prepared an interesting Spring Planting Bulletin describing many flowering shrubs and perennials which can be planted at this season, many of them being new and rare plants never offered before on the Pacific Coast. It also contains much valuable information on the care of Roses and Avocados. Write for it today.

A New Honeysuckle

LONICERA HECKROTTII. A new hybrid Honeysuckle bearing big brilliant clusters of rosy-red and orange-yellow flowers from April 1st to November 1st. Splendid as a small rambling shrub 3 or 4 feet high but will climb if desired. You will like it for its brilliant color, long blooming period and delightful fragrance.

A cluster of the 3-inch rosy-red flowers of Cantua buxifolia, the Magic Flower from Peru. We offer also the lovely Cantua bicolor, with dainty pink and yellow blooms.